A violent tropical cyclone with severe winds is classified as a hurricane. Hurricanes like many natural disasters can potentially, cause an outbreak of disease. Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans on August 29, 2005. The aftermath was unimaginable; including flooding and massive destruction. Over 1000 people were reported dead during the cleanup of Hurricane Katrina.   
 Drinking water is a critical need for surviving after a natural disaster, but can also be the main resource impacted during a hurricane. The stop or lack of electricity can result in backup of water systems causing serious flooding. In the aftermath of natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina, flooding caused overloaded sewage systems. This poor sanitation sparked the forming of bacteria in fresh drinking water. Cholera, E. coli and nor viruses are a few diseases triggered by unsanitary water. “It does not take many microbes or sick people to spread disease, particularly when they are living together in a shelter,” says Kellogg Schwab (PhD, co-director of the [Center for Water and Health](http://www.jhsph.edu/_archive/2009.05.05_EHS/Centers/WaterandHealth/index.html)).   
 Along with many other problems New Orleans faced, there was a rapid growth in the mosquito population after Hurricane Katrina hit. The insects began to breed on the stagnant water. As many know, mosquitoes are carriers of the West Nile Virus and dengue fever. With fertile breeding water around, the risk of contracting the virus significantly increases. Under stagnant water, flooding water can become contaminated with harmful toxins. Carbon dioxide contamination is common when portable generators are used around the disaster area. In this case, it is difficult to clean up without portable generators. The flood areas after a hurricane put the rescue workers and residents at risk for exposure to harmful toxins.   
 Hurricane Katrina, along with other hurricanes, has triggered the spread of many diseases through unsanitary drinking water, backed up sewage systems, and stagnant flood water. People should avoid standing in flood water after a hurricane to lower the chance in contracting a disease, and spreading it to the surrounding area.